

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 13, 2009 in which claims 1, 9-17 and 47 were rejected. With this response, claims 9, 10 and 47 are canceled; claims 1 and 11-13 are amended; and claim 53 is added. Claims 1, 11-17 and 53 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

I. Rejection of Claims 47-52 under 35 USC 102 (b) Based upon Gast

Sections 3-5 of the Office Action rejected 1, 9-17 and 47 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Gast et al. US Patent 6,076,915. Claims 9, 10 and 47 are canceled. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of former claims 9 and 10. Claim 47 is canceled as being substantially redundant to claim 1 has now amended. Claims 1 and 11-17, as amended, overcome the rejection.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of former claim 10 and intervening claim 9. Claim 1 recites that the first portion of image forming points comprise a first segment of a column of image forming points and wherein the second portion comprises a second segment of the column of image forming points on the first printhead. Thus, claim 47 recites a method wherein multiple segments of a single column of image forming points on a printhead are calibrated with respect to one another.

Claim 1 incorporates the limitations of former claim 10 and further recites:

printing a second reference image with the first portion of the first printhead while the first printhead is at a second horizontal position;

printing a second diagnostic image with the second portion while the first printhead is at a third horizontal position positively offset from the second horizontal position by a first offset distance;

detecting a second optical density of the combined second reference image and the second diagnostic image, wherein the compensation value is additionally based upon the second optical density.

Gast fails to disclose a method wherein a first segment of a column of image forming points on a printhead are used to print a first reference image and wherein a second segment of the same column of image forming points on the printhead are used to print a diagnostic image at least partially overlaps the reference image AND the additional steps of left for 1) printing a second reference image with the first portion of the first printhead while the first printhead is at a second horizontal position and (2) printing a second diagnostic image with the second portion while the first printhead is at a third horizontal position positively offset from the second horizontal position by a first offset distance.

In rejecting former claim 10, the Office Action refers to the embodiment shown in Figures 13A-13C of Gast. However, the embodiment shown in Figures 13A-13C of Gast does involve the use of a first segment of a column of image forming points on a printhead to print a first reference image and the use of a second segment of the same column of image forming points on the printhead to print a diagnostic image at least partially overlaps the reference image as required by claim 1. In contrast, as clearly set forth in column 10, line 50-column 11, line 20 of Gast, they disclosed method for calibrating "inter-column alignment" illustrated in Figures 13A-13C of Gast requires the printing of patterns using portions a and b. As clearly shown below in 12 of Gast, portions a and b are NOT printed using segments of the SAME column of image forming points.

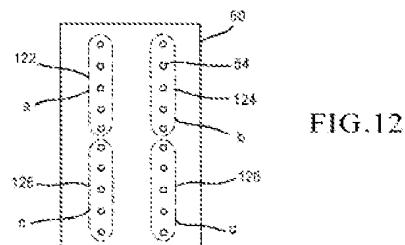


FIG.12

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Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, overcomes the rejection based upon Gast. Claims 11-17 depend from claim 1 and overcome the rejection for least the same reasons.

II. Added Claim 53

With this response, claim 53 is added. Claim 53 depends from claim 1 recites that the first reference image and the first diagnostic image have non-overlapping portions in the horizontal direction. Support for added claim 53 may be found in at least Figure 8. Thus, no new matter is believed to be added.

The prior art of record, including Gast, fails to disclose a method that a claim 53. Thus, claim 53 is presented for consideration and allowance.

III. Conclusion

Claims 1, 11-17 and 53 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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Respectfully submitted,

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